Thereafter Rajshri Sarabhai and I saw 64 Greylag Geese again at Thol Lake (Dist. Mehsana) on 21-12-84.

Again I came across some 20 to 22 Greylag Geese when I was watching birds on Gobhlaj Lake (Dist. Kheda) on 14-1-86 along with a young birdwatcher from Ahmedabad.

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8. EGG MOVING BY A SPOTBILL DUCK (*ANAS POECILORHYNCHA*)

On 11 May, 1984, I discovered a nest of a Spotbill duck with a clutch of 11 eggs in one of the *Acacia* planted mounds of Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur. The nest was a bowl-shaped depression on top of the grassy mound, partially concealed by grass fibres at the opening. The depression was lined with soft, dark grey down feathers, presumably that of the parent. The area around the nest site was dry as the waters had almost dried up save for tiny pools here and there.

I kept track of the development of this nest by visiting it at least once in four days. On 1 June, 1984, I was taken aback to discover that eight of the eggs had been shifted to a point at the foot of the mound, about a metre from the original site. The new nest site was also a neat grassy depression, and as earlier, the nest was lined with some soft feathers. On 6 June, I flushed the incubating parent from the new nest as I was approaching the mound. The whole clutch of 10 eggs had been shifted to the new nest site, rendering the old nest empty (earlier one egg had disappeared). The parents, for some unknown reason deserted the nest after 6 June and hatching success was nil.

It is of interest to note that the bird had shifted the entire clutch, the reason for which is not clear. Oring (1964) reports similar strange and unaccountable incidences of egg moving by three incubating ducks. (two Pintails *Anas acuta* and one mallard *A. platyrhynchos*). On all the occasions he had subjected the nests to considerable disturbance by placing nest traps over them, but he has not been able to arrive at a definite conclusion that the disturbance instigated them to shift the eggs, as, earlier, eggs in numerous nests similarly placed with traps were left intact. Thus, it is unlikely that the minor disturbance created by my visits to the spotbill nest were responsible for the egg moving.

One explanation seems logical. The marshes were rapidly drying up and the original nest site on top of the mound was completely dry with just a few coarse tufts of dry brown grass. The new nest-site at the base of the mound, however, had some amount of moisture left in the form of wet green grass. It is possible that the eggs were moved to the lower site because the area afforded moist and better conditions both for the eggs and the parent.

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9. GREATER SPOTTED EAGLE (*AQUILA CLANGA*) BREEDING IN KEOLADEO NATIONAL PARK, BHARATPUR

A greater spotted eagle (*Aquila clanga*) nest was located on 15th April at the Keoladeo National Park. The nest was situated at a height of *c.* 14 metres on a Kadam (*Mitragyna parvifolia*) tree standing on the northern end of a big Kadam grove in the Keoladhar grassland.

Built on a thin branch about two metres from the main bole of the tree, it was quite difficult to examine. It was constructed mainly with Babool (*Acacia nilotica*) and Kadam (*Mitragyna parvifolia*) twigs, and the central depression was lined with green *Acacia leucophloea* leaves.

The eagles were easily identified as they were dark overall and had little white on the rump. In flight the contrast of dark brown underwing coverts and lighter flight feathers was quite conspicuous.

One oval, white finely speckled with reddish brown egg was laid on 22nd April.

Although Ali and Ripley (1983) mention it as "Resident and breeding in West Pakistan (Baluchistan, Sind and Punjab) and N. India (Gangetic plain), Nepal (lowland) east through Bihar, W. Bengal and Assam". I have not come across any recent record of this species of eagle breeding anywhere in its breeding range within the country.

Abdulali and Panday (1978) described the greater spotted eagle (*Aquila clanga*) as "Winter migrant, does not breed here". It is a new breeding record for Keoladeo National Park. Unfortunately the nesting was not a success as the nest was destroyed in a heavy storm on 26th May and was not rebuilt.

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